

**Town of Lebanon
Office of the First Selectman**

Lebanon Town Hall, 579 Exeter Road, Lebanon, CT 06249-1506

Phone (860) 642-6100 Fax (860) 642-7716

Email: jokonuk@lebanontownhall.org

Website: www.lebanontownhall.org

Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman - Linda R. Finelli, Selectman - John A. Bendoraitis, Jr., Selectman

**Testimony
Joyce Okonuk
First Selectman
Town of Lebanon
Before the
Insurance Committee of the General Assembly
February 21, 2012**

I am writing in support of SB-96, An Act Exempting Municipalities from the Health Insurance Premium Tax.

Lebanon is facing escalating insurance costs which are becoming increasingly difficult to absorb given flat state and local revenues. SB-96 would alleviate some of the pressure by eliminating the 1.75% insurance premium tax which significantly adds to the cost of our benefit package. A growing percentage of our budget is in fact due to increasing municipal employee health insurance costs.

The 1.75% premium tax on health insurance is particularly troubling for small towns that do not have the resources to self-insure.

We therefore thank the committee for introducing this bill to try to provide some relief to small towns struggling to keep pace with increasing health insurance costs.

We urge your continued support for SB-96.

Sincerely,

Joyce R. Okonuk
First Selectman